

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 373 on October 9, 2001 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on the motion to suspend the rules in which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken tomorrow.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 254) supporting the goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 254

Whereas each year, approximately 1,000,000 pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of a newborn baby;

Whereas it is a great tragedy to lose the life of a child;

Whereas babies sometimes live within or outside their mothers' wombs for only a short period of time;

Whereas even the shortest lives are still valuable, and the grief of those who mourn the loss of these lives should not be trivialized;

Whereas more than 35 States have designated October 15, 2001, as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day;

Whereas the observance of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day can give validation to those who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, or other complications;

Whereas Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day will provide the people of the United States with an opportunity to increase their understanding of the great tragedy involved in the deaths of unborn and newborn babies; and

Whereas Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day will enable the people of the United States to consider how, as individuals and communities, they can meet the needs of bereaved mothers, fathers, and family members and work to prevent the causes of these deaths: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports the goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that

all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 254.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. House Resolution 254 supports the compassionate goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. I congratulate the distinguished majority leader for introducing this resolution, which is so important to millions of Americans who have suffered the anguish of a miscarriage, a stillbirth, or the death of a newborn baby.

Each year, around 1 million pregnancies in the United States end in miscarriage, stillbirth, or the death of a newborn baby. This is a great tragedy for the mothers and fathers involved and for those who care for them. As this resolution recognizes, Mr. Speaker, even the shortest lives are valuable; and we must not underestimate or trivialize the grief of those who mourn these lost lives.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day will promote education, awareness, and support for grieving parents nationwide and throughout the world. The goal of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is to help families live with their loss and to help others relate to their loss.

All too often, families grieve in silence and some are never able to come to terms with their loss. But it does not have to be that way, Mr. Speaker. Observing this day can give validation to those who have lost a baby through miscarriage, stillbirth, or other complications; and it will provide all of us with an opportunity to better understand how devastating the loss of an unborn or newborn baby is.

Through Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, we as individuals, and our communities, can also focus on how to meet the needs of the bereaved parents and their families. It is important for all of us to learn how to comfort those who must come to grips with such a terrible loss, and it would be an opportunity for us to reemphasize the importance of working to prevent these deaths.

Mr. Speaker, 43 States have designated October 15 as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. The House should support the goals of these important efforts. I encourage all Members to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr.

ARMEY) for introducing this resolution. I rise in strong support of it.

When a baby or child dies, there is deep grief for the hopes, dreams and wishes that will never be. What is left behind is a sense of loss and a need for understanding.

This resolution, H. Res. 254, Supporting the Goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, and H. Con. Res. 415, Establishing a National Children's Memorial Day, which was passed last session, serve to help bereaved parents deal with their grief and to increase awareness of the services and programs that are available to them.

Many lives are touched when there is a loss of a pregnancy, infant, or child. It is estimated that miscarriages occur in 15 to 20 percent of all pregnancies. Each year in the United States, about 25,000 babies, or 68 babies every day, are born still. This is about one stillbirth in every 115 births. Approximately 80,000 infants, children, teenagers, and young adults die each year from various causes.

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Day, which would be held on October 15, and National Children's Memorial Day, which is observed on December 10, will assist in helping to heal and bringing a process of healing to families coping with and recovering from the loss of an infant or loved one.

People who come into contact with a grieving family have a role in helping to resolve their grief. The role of each person will be determined by his or her relationship with the family and the stage of grief that family is in. Families will always struggle to cope with the devastating crisis precipitated by a loss of a pregnancy, infant, or a child. As a community, we should remember, no one can take the pain away from a grieving family. Pain is a normal part of grieving. Parents often cry, feeling ill or depressed, or have other emotional responses months or years after a death. Parents often want to talk about their loss and are pleased when others take the time to listen.

There will always be need for compassionate support for grieving families, and I hope that all Americans will take the time to show their compassion for families that have experienced the loss of an infant or a child on October 15 and December 10.

Again, I commend the gentleman for such a thoughtful resolution which speaks to the needs of people not only all over our country, but all over the world. I support the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the sponsor of the bill and our distinguished majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. Davis) for

being willing to stay late today and consider this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I think the legislation has been pretty well explained already in its substance and there may indeed be no reason for me to speak on it. But, Mr. Speaker, I think that every now and then in our life, we do these things that come under the heading of the things you do for love. Every now and then we do those things that come from the heart. We always pause and appreciate those Members, those colleagues, those friends, and that family that take a little time out of their lives to share with us those few moments that we might spend on these things.

Mr. Speaker, I believe we could probably find a pretty unanimous consensus in America that there is probably no grief that comes to a parent that is greater than the grief of losing a child. In fact, this Nation has on many, many occasions poured its heart out on behalf of parents at the time of a loss of a child; and yet, Mr. Speaker, there are some parents who have to suffer this grief and this heartbreak almost in silence because their loss is not so recognized nor appreciated by those around them. Why the loss is so great is because, Mr. Speaker, we who are blessed with the privilege of being mom and dad have as a gift from God that little vessel in which we pour all of our hopes and all of our dreams and all our prayer.

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And we wonder, when does this begin? Some people believe that maybe the magic moment when one begins to recognize that one has a wonderful responsibility is when you come home, you have been to the doctor, and the doctor says, "Well, you are going to have a baby;" that wonderful moment of sharing.

Some people believe that maybe one does not feel the full realization until after the child has been born. Someone thinks maybe we have to have the little one around the house for a while.

I think for most parents, and I have had the privilege of enjoying parents with their children for a lot of years, and one of the great wonders of my life is I am now a Grandpa, most parents someplace along the line, very soon after they realize "We are going to have a baby," begin the process of building a very, very major part of their life's dreams into hopes and plans for that child.

Those parents oftentimes, all too many times, have the little one lost to them as a stillborn, or sometimes perhaps as just a barely new infant, with just a few minutes of life outside the womb. I am afraid that we do not always appreciate that that loss is as great and as heartfelt and as lifelong as if they had had the child for years, to see them go through all the many things they had planned.

So on October 15, we want to join with 43 States, including my own great State of Texas, and say to those parents who have had to all too many times suffer while feeling alone and not understood, "We are going to take a little time out and we are going to think of your loss, and we are going to think of your baby as you know your baby in your dreams. We are going to know, along with you, your loss is great, your heart is heavy, and it will be with you forever. And yes, we will hope for you to have other children, but we will take a moment to say that we do understand with you that no matter how many children more you might have in your life, those children do not, cannot, and will not replace that very, very special baby."

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, let me just once again commend the esteemed majority leader for such a well-thought-out and well-developed resolution.

Oftentimes when there is great tragedy or a tremendous need or a calamity, and we try and determine what it is we can do to help, I think in these instances there is one thing that we can all do. That is to show, display, and demonstrate a level of understanding and sensitivity to those who are indeed experiencing the loss. So a level of understanding is something that we can all give.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I commend the majority leader, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), for bringing this important resolution to the House. I also thank the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON), chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service and Agency Organization, as well as the ranking members of the full committee and subcommittee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), for expediting consideration of this resolution.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of H. Res. 254. This bill supports the goals of Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day, by promoting, supporting, educating, and increasing the awareness regarding grieving parents nationwide.

In 1995, 15.7 percent of pregnancies ended in fetal demise—miscarriage or stillbirth. In 1996, 983,000 babies died from miscarriage and stillbirth. These figures do not include neonatal loss, Sudden Death Syndrome, or other causes.

Many parents grieve alone or in silence, sometimes never coming to terms with their

loss. Mothers especially suffer firsthand the emotional and physical pain and heartache associated with such a tragedy.

Remembering this Day is the right step in helping all Americans relate to and assist parents who suffer the loss of an unborn or stillborn child.

I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 254 to remember the families who have experienced the tragedy of losing a child by miscarriage or stillbirth.

Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support House Resolution 254, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PETRI). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 254.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof), the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE UNITED STATES AND THE WORLD COMMUNITY MUST DO MORE FOR THE PEOPLE OF AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, *Medecin Sans Frontieres*, the 1999 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, has today accused the United States of conducting nothing more than cynical military propaganda when we describe our operations in Afghanistan as "humanitarian."

The tragic truth is, they are right. The Bush administration's celebrations concerning the U.S. Air Force drops of food packages, totalling 75,000 food ration packages over the 2 days of Sunday and Monday, are not deserved. *Medecin Sans Frontieres* accuses us of little more than window dressing, seeking to divert public attention from a scandalous humanitarian disaster that could soon rival the Rwandan/Congolese catastrophe of 1994 and 1995.

Before the September 11 crisis, the U.N. World Food Program estimated that there were 2 million civilians in Afghanistan totally dependent on foreign food aid. The World Food Program was trucking in 500 tons a day, or enough to feed only 1 million people. So just 4 weeks ago, each day that went by, some 1 million Afghan men, women, and children were without food.